


Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 76, line 2 as follows:

 A system for collecting and aggregating data from network entities for a data consuming application is described. The system includes a data collector layer to receive network flow information from the network entities and to produce records based on the information. The system also includes a flow aggregation layer fed from the data collection layer and coupled to a storage device. The flow aggregation layer receiving records produced by the data collector layer and aggregates received records. The system can also include an equipment interface layer coupled to the data collector layer and a distribution layer to obtain selected information stored in the storage device and to distribute the select information to a requesting, data consuming application. An accounting system inserts flow probes into various locations within a network to measure certain parameters. The flow probes capture Internet Protocol (IP) packets and determines if the captured IP packets contain messages relating to error reporting. If the IP packet does contain such an error reporting message and is generated within a first protocol, the system maps this into a second protocol.